

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 13, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Young, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw (Yorgason), Scott, Andrus, Skaug, Alfieri, Allgood, Crane(12), Gannon, Green

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Green

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Vice Chair Young called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

MOTION: **Rep. Allgood** made a motion to approve the minutes from February 7, 2023. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30197: **Rep. Manwaring** presented **RS 30197**, proposed legislation to consolidate the March Primary Presidential Election with the May Primary Election date. The March Primary Presidential Election in 2024 is estimated to cost Idaho \$2.7 million. **RS 30197** will result in reduced costs to the state.

MOTION: **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to introduce **RS 30197**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29922C1: **Rep. Allgood** stood to present **RS 29922C2**, however, **RS 29922C1** was on the committee agenda.

Vice Chair Young put the committee at ease at 9:06 A.M.

Vice Chair Young resumed the meeting at 9:06 A.M.

RS 30168: **Rep. Alfieri** presented **RS 30168**, proposed legislation to repeal the use of an affidavit in lieu of showing personal identification at the polls. Rep. Alfieri stated he worked in cooperation with the Secretary of State's office and the affidavit is used very rarely.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to introduce **RS 30168**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30230: **Rep. Crane (12)** presented **RS 30230**, proposed legislation to protect minors from harmful material in public libraries. Rep. Crane (12) stated public libraries should make a reasonable effort to protect minors from harmful material.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (13)** made a motion to introduce **RS 30230**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

HJM 1: **Reps. Ehardt and Boyle** presented **HJM 1**, a memorial to expand Idaho's borders to include several counties in Oregon. This memorial allows conversations to begin between Idaho's and Oregon's legislatures.

Mr. Mark Simmons, former Speaker of the House in Oregon, presented **HJM 1**, and stated members of the Greater Idaho organization want to see the kind of laws that reflect, self-reliance, faith, family, and hard work, the things Idaho is based on, in Oregon, however, there is a huge cultural divide between Western and Eastern Oregon and which is making it impossible to enact those laws. The Greater Idaho organization was formed as a solution to the problems they see in Oregon threatening their farms, ranches and businesses. Responding to committee questions, Mr. Simmons gave a broad overview of what the process to move state borders would entail. The border change would include 11 counties in Oregon who have voted close to 70% in favor of the change.

Michael Oswald, Jason Green, Matthew Jensen and John Lawson testified in support of **HJM 1**, stating the residents of Eastern Oregon share the same values as Idaho and discussions should be able to begin.

William Howell, Greater Idaho, testified in support of **HJM 1**. Mr. Howell owns a seed business and farm land in Union County and stated liberal drug laws, the releasing of criminals, poor public education, and unfair taxes and regulations have made his life difficult. He also shared Oregon has left them without a voice and has become repressive and dictatorial.

Matt McCaw, spokesperson for Greater Idaho, indicated the movement has broad, wide support. Greater Idaho had polling done in Idaho and found a strong majority of residents desired to move the border. The proposed change to the border would result in 63% of Oregon's land mass and 9% (400,000 residents) of Oregon's population moving into Idaho's border. Greater Idaho does not want to be a burden to Idaho but to make Idaho stronger.

Rep. Ehardt presented closing testimony on **HJM 1**, stating, initial polling among Oregon and Idaho residents was extremely positive despite not having much information regarding the border change. **HJM 1** authorizes a conversation that should take place.

MOTION:

Rep. Skaug made a motion to send **HJM 1** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Gannon** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Reps. Ehardt and Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned 9:59 A.M.

Representative Young
Chair

Lisa Hendricks
Secretary